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County Employment and Wages in South Dakota – Second Quarter 2016

South Dakota's only large county, Minnehaha, reported employment growth of 0.8 percent from June 2015 to June 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2015 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that in June 2016, Minnehaha County's employment level of 125,900 accounted for 29.1 percent of total employment within the state. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, employment rose 1.5 percent from June 2015 to June 2016, as 291 of the 344 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. Nationwide, the 344 largest counties made up 72.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 142.7 million in June 2016.

The average weekly wage in Minnehaha County was \$847 in the second quarter of 2016, up 2.8 percent from the previous year. Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.2 percent over the year to \$989 in the second quarter of 2016.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 65 counties in South Dakota with employment below 75,000. All 65 of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

Minnehaha County's 2.8-percent wage growth from the second quarter of 2015 to the second quarter of 2016 ranked 107th nationally. (See [table 1.](#)) Among the 344 largest U.S. counties, 304 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2016. McLean, Ill., ranked first in average weekly wage growth with a gain of 21.0 percent. Thirty-six of the 344 largest counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Ventura, Calif., had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 8.4 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Minnehaha County's \$847 average weekly wage ranked 235th among the 344 large U.S. counties in the second quarter of 2016. Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of \$989 in 102 of the largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$2,252. Santa Mateo, Calif., was second at \$1,871, followed by New York, N.Y. (\$1,866), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,806). Minnehaha was among the 241 large U.S. counties with an average weekly wage below the

national average. Horry, S.C. (\$598) reported the lowest weekly wage, followed by the Texas counties of Cameron (\$602), Hidalgo (\$626), and Webb (\$659).

Average weekly wages in South Dakota's smaller counties

All 65 counties in South Dakota with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$989. Among these smaller counties, Union County had the highest average weekly wage at \$904 and Lyman County had the lowest at \$485. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 66 counties in South Dakota were considered, 17 reported average weekly wages of \$599 or less, 18 had wages from \$600 to \$649, 14 reported wages from \$650 to \$699, and 17 had wages of \$700 or more. (See [chart 1](#).)

Additional statistics and other information

Quarterly data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit the QCEW Web site at www.bls.gov/cew.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2015 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2016 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2015* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn15.htm. The 2016 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2017.

The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2016 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.7 million employer reports cover 142.7 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the largest county in South Dakota, second quarter 2016

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2015-16 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, second quarter 2015-16 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	142,717.2	1.5	--	\$989	--	2.2	--
South Dakota.....	432.7	1.0	--	760	49	2.7	11
Minnehaha, S.D.....	125.9	0.8	238	847	235	2.8	107

⁽¹⁾ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁽²⁾ Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

⁽³⁾ Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁽⁴⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in South Dakota, second quarter 2016

Area	Employment June 2016	Average weekly wage (1)
United States (2)	142,717,157	\$989
South Dakota	432,694	760
Aurora	895	568
Beadle	8,873	704
Bennett	908	568
Bon Homme	1,843	609
Brookings	18,696	777
Brown	21,292	748
Brule	1,896	583
Buffalo	519	707
Butte	2,914	587
Campbell	503	606
Charles Mix	3,578	608
Clark	1,068	608
Clay	5,667	689
Codington	16,214	694
Corson	870	675
Custer	2,955	599
Davison	12,738	704
Day	2,025	558
Deuel	1,498	669
Dewey	2,234	709
Douglas	1,180	621
Edmunds	1,295	675
Fall River	2,639	640
Faulk	627	589
Grant	3,782	716
Gregory	1,561	546
Haakon	824	688
Hamlin	1,997	655
Hand	1,428	600
Hanson	616	668
Harding	451	719
Hughes	11,178	787
Hutchinson	2,716	625
Hyde	565	725
Jackson	868	525
Jerauld	1,417	667
Jones	498	519
Kingsbury	1,833	630
Lake	4,894	718
Lawrence	12,310	634
Lincoln	21,160	863
Lyman	1,462	485
Marshall	1,746	674
McCook	1,395	646
McPherson	638	553
Meade	6,957	698
Mellette	339	496
Miner	748	608
Minnehaha	125,916	847
Moody	2,446	683
Oglala Lakota	3,891	745

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in South Dakota, second quarter 2016 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2016	Average weekly wage (¹)
Pennington.....	58,949	743
Perkins.....	1,255	574
Potter.....	958	578
Roberts.....	3,682	637
Sanborn.....	625	578
Spink.....	2,476	649
Stanley.....	1,466	637
Sully.....	634	634
Todd.....	2,767	670
Tripp.....	2,172	640
Turner.....	2,134	593
Union.....	9,725	904
Walworth.....	2,260	628
Yankton.....	13,003	729
Ziebach.....	280	659

(¹) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(²) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2016

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	142,717.2	1.5	\$989	--	2.2	--
Alabama	1,923.5	1.2	835	37	2.0	29
Alaska	338.7	-2.4	1,011	10	-1.7	49
Arizona	2,619.6	2.6	921	22	1.9	33
Arkansas	1,197.5	1.1	785	47	3.0	7
California	16,754.1	2.5	1,157	5	2.4	19
Colorado	2,574.5	2.3	999	14	1.0	43
Connecticut	1,689.9	-0.1	1,213	3	3.0	7
Delaware	444.0	0.9	990	16	-0.6	48
District of Columbia	756.0	1.7	1,623	1	1.1	42
Florida	8,161.8	3.2	883	25	2.6	14
Georgia	4,269.5	2.7	929	21	2.7	11
Hawaii	643.4	1.0	906	24	3.5	5
Idaho	699.7	3.3	740	50	3.8	3
Illinois	5,945.0	0.2	1,038	9	2.4	19
Indiana	2,995.4	1.0	828	39	2.1	27
Iowa	1,566.0	0.3	825	40	2.9	9
Kansas	1,378.4	-0.2	829	38	1.2	39
Kentucky	1,877.2	1.5	838	36	1.9	33
Louisiana	1,905.2	-1.4	852	32	0.2	46
Maine	622.8	1.0	795	46	3.5	5
Maryland	2,656.0	0.9	1,070	8	2.5	15
Massachusetts	3,538.2	1.2	1,233	2	2.0	29
Michigan	4,300.9	1.9	942	19	2.7	11
Minnesota	2,846.8	0.7	997	15	2.0	29
Mississippi	1,120.1	0.5	727	51	2.5	15
Missouri	2,785.6	1.4	863	30	2.4	19
Montana	468.6	2.2	767	48	1.7	35
Nebraska	978.3	0.9	805	43	2.4	19
Nevada	1,289.4	3.3	874	27	2.2	26
New Hampshire	655.1	1.1	1,003	12	3.7	4
New Jersey	4,051.2	1.7	1,147	6	1.7	35
New Mexico	808.1	-0.3	812	42	0.9	44
New York	9,264.0	1.5	1,210	4	2.5	15
North Carolina	4,285.3	2.5	865	29	2.1	27
North Dakota	423.3	-4.9	908	23	-3.3	51
Ohio	5,353.1	0.8	882	26	2.0	29
Oklahoma	1,570.5	-1.4	823	41	0.6	45
Oregon	1,867.8	2.7	933	20	4.1	2
Pennsylvania	5,786.8	0.4	971	17	1.4	37
Rhode Island	482.9	0.6	949	18	2.5	15
South Carolina	2,013.7	2.4	804	44	2.8	10
South Dakota	432.7	1.0	760	49	2.7	11
Tennessee	2,900.4	2.4	874	27	1.3	38
Texas	11,810.7	1.0	1,000	13	1.2	39
Utah	1,395.9	3.8	840	35	2.3	25
Vermont	310.6	-0.1	850	33	2.4	19
Virginia	3,833.4	1.6	1,011	10	1.2	39
Washington	3,281.6	2.8	1,083	7	5.4	1
West Virginia	693.2	-1.9	800	45	-0.4	47
Wisconsin	2,869.1	0.9	856	31	2.4	19

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2016 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
Wyoming.....	281.7	-3.7	849	34	-2.2	50
Puerto Rico.....	879.5	-0.7	512	(3)	0.2	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	38.4	0.9	743	(3)	-0.4	(3)

⁽¹⁾ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁽²⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁽³⁾ Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in South Dakota, second quarter 2016

